

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, ECIN, SHUM, MARR, PINT, PARM

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS JULY 12-19

1. AMBASSADOR VAKY

AMBASSADOR VAKY WAS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE ON JULY 14 AND WILL BE SWORN IN ON JULY 21 AT 4:30. LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS, CONGRESSMEN AND MANY OTHERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY.

2. ELECTIONS

(A) BOLIVIA - ON JULY 13 THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POSTED A PRESS RELEASE EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN OVER ALLEGED VOTING IRREGULARITIES IN THE RECENT BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A JULY 17 DEMARCHE FROM THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR IN WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED ITS DEEP
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CONCERN OVER THE ATTITUDE OF THE USG TO THE ELECTIONS. AMBASSADOR BOEKER IS IN CONTACT WITH - THE LEADING POLITICAL GROUPS IN BOLIVIA AND WE ARE FOLLOWING EVENTS CLOSELY.

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(B) ECUADOR -

THE JULY 16 ELECTIONS IN ECUADOR WERE HELD IN AN

ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIVE CALM WITH NO REPORTS OF FRAUD.
CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ACKNOWLEDGING

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE NEXT STAGE IN THE "RETORNO"
PROCESS, BUT NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT THE
ELECTION.

(C) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IN RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INVITATION, PRESIDENT CARTER
SENT A LETTER TO DOMINICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN
REGRETTING THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND GUZMAN'S
INAUGURATION, BUT STATED THAT HE HAD ASKED SECRETARY VANCE
AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO REPRESENT HIM AT THE CEREMONY.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

THE INTER-AGENCY GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE (CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE) MET JULY 12 AND
DECIDED TO: POSTPONE A DECISION ON THE 2 IDB LOANS FOR
ARGENTINA, VOTE "NO" ON THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL LOAN FOR
CHILE, POSTPONE AND ATTEMPT TO RESTRUCTURE A PREINVESTMENT
IDB LOAN FOR EL SALVADOR, POSTPONE DECISION ON A PENDING
DOLLARS 19 MILLION IDB AGRICULTURE LOAN FOR NICARAGUA,
PENDING FURTHER EXAMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT IT MEETS
BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, HOLD BACK APPROVAL OF TWO PARAGUAYAN
AID LOANS AND AN IDB LOAN PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE
LAINO CASE. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THREE ACTIONS FOR
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GUYANA: AN IDB LOAN FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
PROGRAMS, AND AN AID SEED FARM DEVELOPMENT AND A
COMBINATION GRANT/LOAN FOR RICE STABILIZATION FOR GUYANA.
ASSISTANCE FOR GUYANA WILL BE SPREAD OUT TO AVOID THE
APPEARANCE OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING RIGHT
AFTER A QUESTIONABLE ELECTION PROCESS. CONSIDERING
MILITARY ITEMS, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO APPROVE A
REQUEST FOR HAITI FOR JEEPS AND TRUCK SPARE PARTS BUT
TURNED DOWN A HAITIAN REQUEST FOR M-1 RIFLE SPARES.

4. AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CAME INTO EFFECT
FOR THE ELEVEN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RATIFIED IT WHEN
GRENADA DEPOSITED ITS INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION ON JULY
14. (THE ELEVEN COUNTRIES ARE: COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,
EL SALVADOR, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, VENEZUELA, ECUADOR,
GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, PANAMA AND GRENADA).

THE CONVENTION SETS OUT A SERIES OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL
RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY,
FROM INHUMANE TREATMENT AND FROM EX-POST FACTO LAWS. IT
PROVIDES FOR AN INTER-AMERICAN COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IT

ALSO PROVIDES FOR A NEW AND STRENGTHENED OAS INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS RELATING TO RIGHT TO LIFE AND COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF INJUSTICE POSE PROBLEMS FOR THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE

OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM AND THE RESERVED POWERS OF THE STATES IN EDUCATION, MARRIAGE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED THE CONVENTION ON JUNE 1, 1977 AND WITH TEN SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS, IT WAS SENT TO THE SENATE FOR ACTION. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT EXPECT CONSIDERATION OF THE CONVENTION IN 1978.

5. NO WEEKLY ISSUE PAPER
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ARA PREPARED NO WEEKLY ISSUE PAPER THIS WEEK. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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